

2012 Rice Expo Shows Both The Fun And Business Sides Of Farming

STUTT GART, ARK.

From the pedal tractor derby to a joint legislative committee meeting, this Friday's 2012 Arkansas Rice Expo will showcase both the fun and business sides of farming.

This year, the Rice Expo will be hosted in the 63,000-square-foot Grand Prairie Center in Stuttgart, offering educational exhibits, seminars, research updates and a catfish lunch in air-conditioned comfort at 2709 Highway 165 South.

The Rice Expo will also hold the traditional field plot tours, with air conditioned buses shuttling expo-goers between the Grand Prairie Center and the University of Arkansas' Rice Research and Extension Center, east of the Grand Prairie Center at 2900 Hwy 130 East.

Admission is free and doors open at 8 a.m.

This year's schedule:

Grand Prairie Center

8 a.m. – Exhibits open

9 a.m. – Joint meeting of the Joint Energy and Agriculture Committees (Phillips Community College, campus seminar room.)

9 a.m. – Judging begins in the Rice Recipe Contest

9 a.m. – Archery, BB activities begin

9 a.m. – Pedal tractor derby

9 a.m. – Field tours begin

9:10 a.m. – Virtual field tours begin in Salons A&B

9:15 a.m. – Janet Carson, extension horticulture specialist, "Gardening in Rice Country"

11:15 a.m. – Welcome by Chuck Wilson, director of the Rice Research and Extension Center

11:20 a.m. – Rich Hillman, Rice Research and Promotion Board Update, Auditorium

11:25 a.m. – Dr. David Gealy, USDA-ARS update, Auditorium

11:30 a.m. – Dr. Clarence Watson, Division of Agriculture update, Auditorium

11:40 a.m. – Gov. Mike Beebe, "What's right with Arkansas," Auditorium

Noon – Awards

12:10 p.m. – Lunch, Salons A&B

12:30 p.m. – Chuck Barrett, "Voice of the Razorbacks," Salons A&B

Seminars – Classroom C

9 a.m. – Extra income through agritourism, Stacey McCullough, instructor, U of A System Division of Agriculture

9:30 a.m. – Arkansas Water Plan, Tom Riley, director U of A Div of Agriculture Public Policy Center

10 a.m. – Farm Bill update, Eric Wailes, Brad Watkins; U of A Ag Economists.

10:30 a.m. – Rice Situation and Outlook, Bobby Coats, U of A, extension agricultural policy analyst

Community Development – Educational Seminars

9 a.m. – Disaster Preparedness: Are you ready? Deborah Tootle,

9:30 a.m. – Learning and Leading – Lead Arkansas Joe Waldrum

10 a.m. – Adding Value to Your Business Enterprise, Organization or Community through Strategic Marketing, Mark Peterson

10:30 a.m. – Local Government Service, Wayne Miller.

This year's Rice Expo sponsors:

Platinum – RiceTec

Silver – Agrotain, Holt Agribusiness, Horizon Ag, Producers Rice Mill, Riceland Foods, Inc., RiceCo, Specialty Rice, Inc.

Bronze – Ag-Pro of Arkansas, Arkansas Rice Council, Arkansas Rice Growers Association, Gowan, Heritage Agriculture of Arkansas, Nationwide, Prairie Implement Co.

USA Rice Federation, USDA-National Agricultural Statistics Service, USDA-Agriculture Research Service, and Valent.

For more information about the Arkansas Rice Expo, visit www.uaex.edu, or call the Rice Research and Extension Center at 870-673-2661.

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Link Directly To: **RICETEC**